

Mine

HELLO AGAIN

VOL. 21 NO. 5

SEP - OCT 1990

A PERSONAL NOTE: Many thanks for the help and information so far in my research for revising my Network and Circulating show logs. I am combining the two logs with much more information including dates of **ALL** shows in circulation. Most network shows will now have exact dates on the air with sponsors, day and time. **BUT**, to do an effective job, I need to know what is available and more details on shows. I am looking for Radio Guides, Radio Mirrors, etc. I will reimburse any expenses. The project is approaching 300 pages of information.

LUX LOG: I have just recently completely revised my log of **Lux Radio Theater** with many more guest stars. It is arranged chronologically and the cost is \$7.00. If you also want an alphabetical listing, the cost is \$9.00. If you buy a log and if you want to know what shows a particular performer was in, just send a SASE. If you don't buy a log and you wish to know this, send \$1.00 for each performer and a SASE.

CONVENTION 1990: Dates of our next convention are October 18 - 20, 1990 at the Holiday Inn - North, Newark, NJ. Updates are included. Full details are in the flyer previously sent.

REMINISCING: From **May, 1971; Vol. 2 No. 5:** 105 people are now subscribing. Other OTR newsletters being put out are Epilogue by George Jennings; Stay Tuned by Bob Joseph; Echoes of the Past by Don Pellow; Radio Dial by Charles Ingersoll. (Do you remember any of these?)...Always put the date of the program in your catalog if you know it. I am now working on a booklet with each network program with the years, sponsors, time and day. This should help dating the shows. (Today some traders and dealers are still careless about the dates. I am still finding many discrepancies as I am working on my current project.)...**New Friends:** Howard Brenner*...Lynn Lichty...Len Lawson...Ken Morris...George Younis*...Ray Stanich; Ray is doing much research on the Railroad Hour, Arch Oboler and others. (Ray has put out more logs and similar types of information than anyone)...Hugh Carlson; Hugh has one of the largest collections available and originates many of the programs being circulated...Dave Davies (We see Barbara and Dave at our convention every year)...Gary Dudash...Francis Ramczyk...(Do you know the whereabouts of anyone with an asterisk (*)?)...**Old Friends:** Ralph Miller is secretary of an OTR club in the Boston Area (The Radio Collectors of America are still going strong)...Just received Harry Sova's **American Radio: 1927.**

Uncle Don: Yes, He Did

by Warren Abbott

Yes, Uncle Don did say it and I was in the studio that night and heard him. It happened at station WOR in New York and I was visiting in the control room and was watching him thru the studio window. This is what he actually said, "That ought to hold the little bastards until tomorrow." This was never recorded, to my knowledge. WOR or WABC, where I was chief engineer at the time, was not equipped to record anything. There are so many versions of the story that it is ridiculous. I even have one on the "Bloopers" recording put out some time ago, where the announcer says that is alleged that he said it. You can rest assure that it was not Don's voice on the recording, as Don Carney (that was his real name) and I were personal friends and worked together on radio for several years. This is how we became acquainted.

During the 20's before CBS became a network, they leased time from both WOR (3 nights) and WABC (4 nights a week including Sunday) to broadcast their sponsored shows. At this time Don Carney wrote, directed and acted in two local shows, namely "Main Street Sketches" and "Country Store," which were comedy skits. During this time mention was made that Columbia

was to start their own network in New York. WOR immediately went to work remodeling their studios and the carpenters and others made so much noise that a lot of it went out over the air with their programs. Columbia complained and moved all their programs over to WABC. The station WABC was then owned by Mr. A. H. Grebe, who was then making the famous Grebe Radio. I was hired as chief engineer by Mr. Grebe a couple of years before to build the new studios and master control room equipment for his new station. As the work was then completed we were in good shape to handle anything. Things got so bad with the noise and construction work at WOR that arrangements were made to broadcast most of their programs either from our studios or thru our equipment to their transmitter. Many of Don Carney's programs originated then from our studios and I pumped gain on a lot of them.

Don Carney apologized later over the air that it was only said in jest, but he told me that he would regret it until the day he died, and he did. As to the other character in Philadelphia, his name was Uncle Wip, not Whip, as the station was WIP owned by Gimble Brothers in Philadelphia, which later became WGBS. I doubt very much the story about him, but if it had happened, we in the business would have heard about it. I did not and very little got by me back in those days. I could write a book about the good old radio days and that is just exactly what I am getting ready to do. Watch for it. I'll let you know when it will be ready. (I don't believe it was ever written).

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: **Norman Corwin** received The American Theater's highest award, given to someone who has made significant contributions to the radio dramatic arts. It was presented to him over station KCRW in Santa Monica, California...August marked the 7th anniversary of the KCSN Radio Repertory Players who have been producing new radio shows twice a month under the title of "Thirty Minutes to Curtain." They are broadcast on KCSN, 88.5 FM, at California State University, Northridge, California.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED: **Wavelengths**, Apr - Jun; new Fred Allen shows have emerged. A special summer series of the late forties called "The Belmont is On the Air" was broadcast from the Belmont Hotel in Harwich, Mass. It was never broadcast on network radio. Send a SASE to Revival of Creative Radio, Box 1585, Haverhill, MA 01831 for details-
...SPERDVAC Radiogram, Aug; articles on Art Hearn, Howard Duff; one monthly column is the review of several OTR-related books by Chris Lembesis who has about the largest collection of OTR books...Sep; article on Frank Barton and Kenny Delmar...**The Jack Benny Times**, Jan - Aug (4 issues); interview with Sam Perrin...**Daily Sentinel**. This bimonthly publication is put out by Robert Brunet, 21 West 74th St., New York, NY 10023. Cost is \$9 a year. This issue (Jul - Aug) contains birthdays and addresses of personalities; articles about Amos & Andy, one of their scripts and other features. One birthday for October 20th if you want to send her a card is **Arlene Francis**, Ritz Towers, 59th St. and Park Ave., New York, NY 10021...Sep - Oct; articles on Philip Morris programs and stars...**Metro Washington OTR Club News**, Sep - Oct; articles on Dick Tracy...**Listening Guide Newsletter**, Aug - Sep; 3rd part on help to the new collector by Terry Salomonson; report on Cincinnati's 4th annual OTR Convention...**On The Air**, Sep - Oct; article on Jack Webb...A new newsletter about nostalgia is **Past Times**. This entertainment newsletter contains articles and reviews about the music, movies and radio programs of the 1920's to early 1950's. Editor is Randy Skretvedt, 7308 Fillmore Dr., Buena Park, CA 90620. 4 issues are \$6.00...Residents in the Seattle, Washington area have a very good publication called The Greater Seattle Radio Guide. For information, write to Radio Guide, 811 NE 45th, Seattle, WA 98105.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES: Received a copy of **Sound Effects** by Robert Mott. It is an excellent 220 - page book about sound effects and their use in radio, tv and film. Bob Mott, a sound effects engineer himself, gives you all the fascinating details of the business. It is \$29.95 and can be found in most college book stores that give courses in radio, film or television. Some trade book stores also sell it. It was published by Butterworth Publishers, 80 Montvale Ave., Stoneham, MA 02180...**Repeat Performances: A Guide to Hollywood Movie Remakes** by Doris Milberg. This 150-page book lists hundreds of Hollywood films that have been remade. Information on each film is detailed, including if the film is available on video. It will be published by Broadway Press around October. For copies call Doris Milberg at (516) 678-2157 or see her at the convention on Saturday, October 20th.

LOGS: **Ray Stanich**, 173 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201 has more logs: Stage Door Canteen (\$1.25) and Mystery of the Week (SASE)...**Gordon Kelley**, 8600 University Blvd., Evansville, IN 47712 has new Sherlock Holmes log. It is 95% complete. It also contains a complete BBC log and complete tv and film logs. This 35-page log is \$10.00.

ORGANIZATIONS AND CONVENTIONS: Unfortunately, beginning on June 29th, 1990, the UCLA Film and Television Archive is temporarily discontinuing its radio archive. Ron Staley, who has developed the radio archive for 13 years, is afraid that because of the inactivity, the 50,000 transcription discs and the 10,000 tapes will deteriorate...Full details on the SPERDVAC Convention flyer enclosed.

NEW ADDRESSES: **Dave Siegel**, 419 Granite Springs Rd., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598...**Don Maris**, Box 200725, Arlington, TX 76006.

NEW FRIENDS AND RETURNEES: **Tom Sills**, 32340 Gainsborough, Warren, MI 48093 is selling many of his 4-track reels for \$10 each or less. Send him a SASE for a reel-by-reel breakdown. Also send a SASE for a synopsis of each show...**Bill Simmons**, 1017 Breezewood, Rd., Greensboro, NC 27410...**John Barber**, Box 70711, New Orleans, LA 70172. John has a Batman's Hero Sixpack (6 cassettes); 2 are Batman (Vol. 2 and 4), 2 Lone Ranger; 2 Green Hornet; 2 Superman; 2 Shadow. All 6 are \$25.99...**Charles Schmidt**, 10 Clinton St., Brooklyn, NY 11201...**H. Edwin Titus**, 34 Stanford Pl., Montclair, NJ 07042...**Lewis West**, 10401 Williams Rd., Charlotte, NC 28227...**Lyndell Bedingfield**, 43434 Cottonwood Rd., Newberry Springs, CA 92365...**Jay Wild**, 21-15 22nd Rd., Astoria, NY 11105...**Jon Smith**, 299 West St., White Plains, NY 10605...**Marlene Jepsin**, 3455 Homestead Rd. #9, Santa Clara, CA 95051...**John Baumann**, 555 Corbett Ave., San Francisco, CA 94114...**Russ Pfister**, 192 South Gould Rd., Columbus, OH 43209.

OLD FRIENDS: **Ray Nemec**, 1424 Heatherton Dr., Naperville, IL 60563 still looking for old Radio Digest; Radio Guides and RADioindEX magazines...**Ruben Thomas**, Box 020366, Brooklyn, NY 11202 is seeking episodes of Barrie Craig, Confidential Investigator. He has 57 episodes already. He is especially looking for the first 2 episodes which ran under the title, "**Barrie Crain**, Confidential Investigator."...**Michael Ratcliffe**, 54 Henry St., Metuchen, NJ 08840 looking for radio episodes of The Saint and video tape copies of the tv series The Rat Patrol and Combat...**Fred McFadden**, Box 4721, Rome, NY 13440 has about the largest collection of Judy Garland radio shows and is looking for more, especially 1937 Jack Oakie College, 1939-40 Bob Hope season and her appearances as a member of the Gumm Sisters...**Bob Flatter**, 3126 N. 12th St., Wausau, WI 54401 has over 10,000 remotes and musical programs (especially bands). Bob is trying to locate the George Hall Orchestra 78 rpm records in disco order on tape.. **Dick Hayes**, 59 Myrtle Ave., Cranston, RI 02910 still looking for 1930's or 1940's microphone, preferably CBS, and/or a 1950's NBC mike...**Lora Palmer**, 176 Atwater St., West Haven, CT

06516 is looking for a poem written and read by Paul Barbour in One Man's Family entitled "Now It's November."

IN FOND MEMORY: **Johnny Wayne**, Jul 18, 72; popular radio and tv comedian in Canada as half of the Wayne and Shuster team...**Charlie Morris**, Jul 6, 81; scripter and musician; wrote for the Jack Benny show...**Paul Shannon**, Jul 25, 80; Philadelphia radio and tv personality (Wayside Theater)...**Karl Weber**, Jul 30, 74; radio actor (A Woman in White, Dr. Sixgun)...**Sara Seeger**, Aug 12, 76. Sara was the wife of Ezra Stone and is best known for the lady next door in Dennis, the Menace. She also performed with her husband in The Aldrich Family on radio. I had the pleasure of meeting her at our convention in 1984.. **Robert Synes**, Aug 5, 58; tv writer and producer; wrote for the Tex and Jinx Show on radio...**Herbert Nelson**, Jul 19, 76; stage, tv and radio actor (Betty and Bob, Girl Alone, Dan Harding's Wife)...**David Rose**, Aug 23, 80; Grammy winning composer and conductor. Musical director of Red Skelton Show since 1947...**Sam Cook Digges**, Sep 3, 74; President of CBS Radio from 1971 - 1981...**John Winters**, Aug 24, 81; organist for ABC (Myrt and Marge; When a Girl Marries)...**Irene Dunne**, Sep 4, 88; One of the top film stars. On 19 Lux Radio Theater of which 13 are available.

Write if You Get Work....and Hang by Your thumbs

* * * * *

JAY HICKERSON, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514 (203) 248-2887. \$10 a year

The latest issue of old time radio's Listening Guide Newsletter is now ready...

If you haven't already subscribed, you have already missed many features in our first two issues: You've missed extensive collector tips and "help" articles, reviews of shows, clubs, collector profiles and listings of both collectors and clubs, interviews with Eve Arden "Our Miss Brooks" and ABC's George Ansburo, computerizing your collection, shows you might have missed, news and much more.

If you subscribe **NOW**, you can start your subscription with issue #3 and read about...

- 1. The latest developments in the legal battle between Radio Yesteryear/Radiola and 9 OTR dealers "within the hobby..."
- 2. The **THIRD** installment of the **Help to the Collector** column, and use of the computer to help organize...
- 3. A detailed report on **Cincinnati's 4th old time radio convention** and dates for the upcoming Newark **Friends of Old Time Radio** convention...
- 4. Spotlight on OTR Clubs presents a look at the **Radio Historical Association of Colorado**, and **North American Radio Archives**. A list of several other similar clubs across the country is also included.
- 5. A **reader feedback** column...
- 6. A discussion about **why** we collect old time radio...
- 7. The **FIRST** installment of "Lies in the Temple" a highly thought-provoking fictional piece that takes place in **The Cathedral of Old Time Radio Shows**, in which the **religion** practiced is, you guessed it, Old Time Radio...

And... (our favorite feature) **more!**

There is *no other* publication quite like **Listening Guide Newsletter**.

Each issue is a solid collection of useful as well as entertaining information about collecting the old shows. If you're only interested in reprints and pictures from old magazines from the 1940's, this is **NOT** the publication for you. If your interest is nothing more than boring, endless eulogies of old stars and shows, this is **NOT** the publication for you.

Listening Guide Newsletter is a publication filled with original articles written **BY COLLECTORS FOR COLLECTORS** of old time radio.

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Send to:

BRC Productions, P.O. Box 2645, Livonia, MI. 48151

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SEND TO: BRC Productions, P.O. Box 2645, Livonia, MI. 48151

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

DRESDEN

10:00 – 5:30 Sound effects set-up; mingle; coffee
from 2:00

5:30 – 8:30 Cocktails and dinner

8:30 – 10:30 Visit with guests and friends; set up
dealers room; informal panel

FRIDAY

9:00 – 10:00 Gary Yoggy and Art Pierce present Lux
Radio Theater; a workshop

10:30 – 11:30 (To be decided)

12:00 – 1:00 Sound Effects Workshop

1:30 – 2:30 (Closed – Rehearsal for Lux)

2:30 – 3:30 (Closed – Rehearsal for Lux)

4:00 – 5:00 Raymond Edward Johnson presents
“War of the Worlds”

5:30 – 7:00 Cocktails

7:00 – 8:30 Dinner; visit with the guests; Raffle

8:45 – 9:45 Re-creation (Lux Radio Theater; “You
Can’t Take it With You” with Margot
Stevenson and Abby Lewis)

10:00 – 10:45 Panel (To be decided)

SUTTON/ASCOT

A Visit to Duffy’s Tavern with Gary Yoggy
Dave Warren Players
Comics and Radio (Jack French)

SATURDAY

9:00 – 10:00 Gunsmoke panel with SuzAnne and
Gabor Barabas, Parley Baer

10:30 – 12 Mercury Theater panel (Burgess
Meredith, Richard Wilson, Arthur
Anderson, Anthony Tollin,)

12:15 – 1:00 (Closed – Rehearsal)

1:00 – 2:00 (Closed – Rehearsal)

2:15 – 3:15 Re-creation (“Dracula” from Mercury
Theater with Raymond Edward
Johnson)

3:30 – 5:00 (Closed – Rehearsal)

5:00 – 6:30 Cocktails

6:30 – 8:00 Dinner; visit with the guests; Raffle

8:15 – 8:45 Tribute to CBS (Featuring announcers
and commercials)

9:00 – 9:45 Re-creation (“A Plot to Overthrow
Christmas”; directed by Norman
Corwin; starring Burgess Meredith)

9:45 – 10:30 Awards; closing

(Open)

Dick Tracy on Radio (Sidney Slon, Bill Nadel)

A look at “Suspense” (Don Ramlow, Lucille Fletcher)

Raffle

There will be a raffle on Friday and Saturday nights. If you would like to donate prizes, please let me know. All monies from the raffle and the sale of books, records, tapes, t-shirts and pins at the FOTR table help pay for the many guests we have at our convention.

Books

Books on sale at the convention as of now are: **Fred Allen** by Robert Taylor; **Orson Welles** by Bret Woods; **Children's Hour** by Marilyn Boemer; **Pharmacy and Medicine** by Mickey Smith; **Hard News: Women in Broadcast Journalism** by Hosley and Yamada; **Tom Mix** by Merle "Bud" Norris; **Early Days of Broadcasting** by George Douglas; **On a Note of Triumph: Norman Corwin and the Golden Years of Radio** by R. LeRoy Bannerman; **On the Air: Pioneers of American Broadcasting** by Amy Henderson; **Gunsmoke: A Complete History** by SuzAnne and Gabor Barabas; **Stay Tuned** by Dr. Christopher Sterling; **Sound Effects** by Robert Mott.

Registration

All registration monies for dinner **must** be sent in advance to ensure enough room for you. Remember, registration for the day only on Friday and/or Saturday is \$8 a day if preregistered; \$10 a day if paid at the door. Remember, if you register at the door for the day, it costs more and you have to fill out a registration card.

Air Flights

Continental Airlines is the official airline for our convention. We have special group rates which you can use. Discounts are 50% off normal coach fare and 5% off restricted (discounted) fares. Call 1-800-468-7022 and give the person that answers a special "EZ" number. The number is **EZ 10BP3** (read E Z ten B P 3). Hours to call Continental are 6 am - 12 midnight CST (Monday - Friday) and 8 am - 9 pm CST (Saturday and Sunday).

Hotel

Some registrants are forgetting to let me know if they need a hotel room. I must know in advance.

Publicity

For publicity information, you may contact **Lee Munsick** at (201) 386-1920.

Update prepared by Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514; (203) 248-2887

CONVENTION '90: UPDATE # 2

Joining us for the weekend will be **Norman Corwin**, one of radio's most prolific, entertaining and dramatic writers. He will direct his "Plot to Overthrow Christmas" on Saturday night. Also joining us will be **Burgess Meredith**, who will play Nero in "The Plot to Overthrow Christmas." Mr. Meredith was also with The Mercury Players. Also joining us from the west coast is **Elliott Reid**, original member of the Mercury Theater and among many other shows, was host for a time on Theater Guild of the Air.

Additional Guests

New: Norman Corwin; Elliott Reid; Burgess Meredith; Mary Small (had several of her own shows on which she sang); Phyllis Creore (actress and singer; had own show "Canteen Girl" in 1942)

Returnees: Florence Williams; Charlotte Manson; Betty Wragge; Joan Shea; Peg Lynch; Adele Ronson; Ted Mallie; Earl George; Bob Dryden; Bob Steel; Arthur Tracy

Ads

Don't forget to place an ad in our expanded program book. **This will be a special 15th anniversary book.** Prices are \$60 for a full page (8 1/2 by 11); \$40 for a half page; \$20 for a quarter page. Don't forget that dealers at our convention take a 25% discount on their ad.

Dealers

Dealers tables went very fast last year. Previous dealers will get first preference, but I need to know whether you want tables or not as soon as possible. There will also be 4 tables for displays and handouts.

Thursday Food

Also, **please don't forget to let me know what food you want for Thursday night** (London Broil, chicken cordon bleu or stuffed filet of sole). Some of you are still forgetting to indicate this when you register. If I don't have your choice, you will have to take what is available.

Seating

Let me know the people you would like at your dinner table on Friday and/or Saturday. We will do our best to accommodate you. You must know that the people are coming. We can only hold seating for people with **advanced** registration.

Workshops

The complete schedule as of September 12th is enclosed. Workshop and panel leaders please take notice. If you need anything special, please let me know.